

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5986

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MX

SUBJECT: RENEWED TERRORIST ACTIVITY - MEXICAN REACTION AND
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE

REFS A) MEXICO 830 B) MONTERREY 94

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE LATEST TERRORIST BOMBINGS, WHICH FOR
THE FIRST TIME SINCE THEY BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, 1974 HAVE
CAUSED LOS OF LIFE, HAVE PROMPTED A RENEWAL OF THE AT
TIMES RATHER XENOPHOBIC RHETORICAL OUTBURSTS (HINTING
CIA RESPONSIBILITY) WITH WHICH THE GOM AND MEXICAN
PUBLIC RESPONDED TO SIMILAR EVENTS SIX WEEKS AGO. THIS
IS MORE THE REACTION OF A GOVERNMENT HARD PUT TO
RECONCILE TERRORIST ACTIVITY WITH ITS OWN "REVOLUTIONARY"
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POLICIES THAN A SERIOUS CHARGE OF CULPABILITY.

OF MORE SIGNIFICANCE, IF IT WAS INTENTIONAL (IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN), WAS THE DETONATION IN SAN LUIS POTOSI OF A BOMB DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, CAUSING FIVE DEATHS. INDISCRIMINATE TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST THE MEXICAN PUBLIC WOULD REPRESENT A REAL ESCALATION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN MEXICO. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LATEST WAVE OF TERRORIST BOMBS IN SAN LUIS POTOSI (WHICH RESULTED IN FIVE DEATHS - THE FIRST SINCE THE BOMBINGS BEGAN IN MID-NOVEMBER, 1974), OAXACA, AND MEXICO CITY HAVE RENEWED THE AT TIMES RATHER XENOPHOBIC RHETORIC WITH WHICH THE GOM AND MEXICAN PUBLIC RESPONDED TO SIMILAR EVENTS IN MID-DECEMBER (SEE MEXICO 10599). FOR EXAMPLES, THE LEADER OF THE CHAMBER OF FEDERAL DUPTIES, CARLOS SANSORES PEREZ, LABELED THE BOMBINGS AN "INTENT TO CREATE SOCIAL ALARM WHICH LEADS TO WHAT RECENTLY WAS CALLED 'DESTABILIZATION' OF A REGIME"; THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PRI (RULING PARTY) CALLED THE EXPLOSIONS AN "ACT OF PROVOCATION WHICH BENEFITS THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND INTENDS TO INTERRUPT THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY"; AND A RECENTLY ORGANIZED "FRONT" OF SEVEN YOUTH GROUPS AND YOUTH AFFILIATES OF POLITICAL GROUPS (FROM PRI TO COMMUNIST PARTY) UNEQUIVOCABLY TERMED IT PART OF A CIA PLAN AGAINST ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES.

2. LESS XENOPHOBIC BUT IN THE SAME VEIN WAS A HEADLINED STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MOYA PALENCIA (LEADING PRESIDENTIAL SPIRANT) THAT TERRORISM WOULD NOT "DETER GOM FROM ITS REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVES" (OR) "FROM ITS NATIONAL-ISTIC AND INDEPENDENT POLICY."

3. THE BOMBINGS ALSO HAVE CREATED AGAIN A CLIMATE RIPE FOR RUMORS AND FALSE ALARMS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS DOZENS OF BOMB SCARES OCCURRED IN MEXICO CITY JANUARY 29 AND WHAT APPARENTLY WAS AN ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION NEAR A PEMEX REFINERY IN TAMAULIPAS JANUARY 29 HS RESULTED IN THE STATIONING OF MILITARY TROOPS AT PEMEX INSTALLATIONS COUNTRYSIDE.

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4. IN CONTRAST TO THE FLORID RHETORIC, THE OPPOSITION PARTY OF NATIONAL ACTION (PAN), WHILE DEPLLORING THE VIOLENCE, POINTED OUT THAT "WHILE INSTITUTIONAL WAYS REMAIN CLOSED OR OPEN ONLY TO A POINT SHORT OF PUTTING IN JEOPARDY THE POWER OF THE RULING GROUP, THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO THINK THE SYSTEM OUGHT TO BE DYNAMITED, AND WHO ACT ACCORDINGLY". THE PAN ALSO SAID THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTING SUCH

ACTS TO THE CIA OR TO "FASCISM" ONLY ADDED TO THE CONFUSION.

5. ON JANUARY 30 MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA LINKED BOMBINGS TO A GROUP "LIKE" THE 23 OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND IN SAN LUIS POTOSI THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN ANNOUNCING CHARGES AGAINST FIVE OF A LARGER GROUP OF DETAINEES ATTRIBUTED RESPONSIBILITY TO THE "UNION OF THE PEOPLE" TERRORIST GROUP.

6. COMMENT: PAN'S REASONING OF COURSE IS NOT WELCOME TO A GOVERNMENT HARD PUT TO RECONCILE TERRORISM WITH ITS OWN SELF-TOUTED "REVOLUTIONARY" CHARACTER. GIVEN ITS ASSUMPTION THAT IT IS THE SINGLE REPOSITORY OF TRULY REVOLUTIONARY ACTION IN MEXICO, THE GOM (AND ITS SUPPORTERS) LOGICALLY CONCLUDE ANY ACT DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IS IPSO FACTO COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY.

7. THE ONLY REALLY DISTURBING PART OF THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT WAS THE LOSS OF FIVE LIVES, CAUSED BY THE THIRD OF THREE EXPLOSIONS IN SAN LUIS POTOSI. ALTHOUGH CONCRETE INFORMATION IS LACKING, THIS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL, SINCE THE OTHER TWO BOMBS DETONATED BEFORE BUILDINGS WERE OCCUPIED. IF INTENTIONAL, HOWEVER, ANTI-PERSONNEL TERRORIST ACTS WOULD REPRESENT AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE HERE. JOVA

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